

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 12-0755.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 1 has been amended as shown:

1 (Twice Amended). A sealing-enhancing coating for a gasket or a portion of a gasket, characterised in that the coating comprises [flack] flaky particles of chemically exfoliated vermiculite, at least 90% by weight of said particles having a thickness of no more than 30 microns, and no dimension greater than 1mm, the particles forming 10 to 90 wt% of the coating, the coating also comprising 50 to 10 wt% of an organic polymer binder which is heat resistant to at least 300°C, said coating being adhered to at least a resilient sealing bead portion of a metal gasket layer and having a coating thickness less than 100 microns which flows under compression to enhance the sealing ability of said sealing bead portion of said gasket by filling any cracks and fissures present on a surface of said embossed sealing bead portion and a member against which said gasket layer seals.